

10. (New) A water-decomposable absorbent article comprising:

a water-decomposable back layer;

a water-decomposable and liquid-pervious spun-laced surface layer having a plurality of perforations distributed over an entire area thereof; and

a water-decomposable absorbent layer disposed between the back layer and the surface layer;

said absorbent layer being formed of at least one composite sheet of a water-soluble or water-swellaible polymer layer and a water-decomposable fibrous layer having properties of dispersing absorbed liquid in a direction perpendicular to a direction of penetration of the liquid for preventing localized concentration of the absorbed liquid, of which an uppermost layer adjacent to the spun-laced surface layer is the water-decomposable fibrous layer.

11. (New) A water-decomposable absorbent article comprising:

a water-decomposable back layer;

a water-decomposable and liquid pervious spun-laced surface layer having a plurality of perforations distributed over an entire area thereof; and

a water-decomposable absorbent layer disposed between the back layer and the surface layer;

said absorbent layer being formed of two water-decomposable fibrous layers and a water-soluble or water-swellaable polymer layer sandwiched between said two water-decomposable fibrous layers, and one of said water-decomposable fibrous layer located adjacent said spun-laced surface layer having properties of dispersing absorbed liquid in a direction perpendicular to a direction of penetration of the liquid for preventing localized concentration of the absorbed liquid.